

THE HOUSE OF HOWELL

Mrs. W. S. Howell (Mrs. Annie F. Johnson Howell)  
with comments by Dr. T. B. Rice

Beginning with the family of John Johnson and Elmira Howell. Their children are six in number. The boys are John, McKinney, Alonzo, and William Johnson Howell. The girls are Burnah Howell Hilsman, Austria Howell Mapp, and Navilla (Villa) Howell Mapp.

McKinney, Sr., was the father of John Johnson and Mathew Cavensough Howell. He had three brothers, Mathew, Joseph, and William. McKinney, the father of John J., and Mathew C., married Mary Johnson.

John J. Howell married Elmira McBride in 1832.

Mathew C. married Sarah Simonton a short time before this. Sarah Simonton had three sisters, - Margaret Alfriend, who married Ben Alfriend; Isabella Pruden, and Jane Simonton, who died in her youth. Mrs. Isabella Simonton Pruden is the mother of Mrs. Louisa Hunt of Eatonton, and of Miss Sallie Pruden of Eatonton.

John Johnson Howell married Elmira McBride when she was sixteen. She was reared in Milledgeville and in Eatonton, Georgia.

McKinney Howell, father of John J. and Mathew C. had three brothers; Joseph, Mathew, and William. Mathew was a bachelor, - Joseph was married twice and had three children, Isaac, Abram, and Nancy. - Abram married Parmelia (probably Pamela) Denham, - Isaac married Miss Davis (Mary Davis) of Greenesboro', Georgia (Greene County). She was a sister of Alfred Davis (Mr. Charles Alfred Davis), Mrs. Thomas Stocks, and Mrs. L. H. Bowen, who was a missionary to Africa, and mother of Mrs. T. B. Rice of Greenesboro', Ga. This family were prominent citizens of Greene County and their names will be handed down through succeeding generations.

Abram inherited fine property from his bachelor Uncle, Mathew, who also gave John J. a fine looking colored man, a carpenter named Dick. Nancy Howell married Cleve Nelms. Her children were Rebecca, Milner, Martha, Alexander, Nettie Nicholson, and James, who married Minerva Hilsman.

Isaac, who married Miss Davis, had two sons, Thaddeus and Leonidas. (The following is supplied by T. B. Rice, Historian for Greene County, Georgia.)

"Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Howell moved to Lafayette, Chambers County, Alabama, where Mrs. Howell died and left the above named two sons, around ten and twelve years of age. Being apprised of Mrs. Howell's <sup>illness</sup> death, her mother, Mrs. Samuel Davis, and her

sister, Mrs. Thomas Stocks, went in their carriage to LaFayette. Mrs. Isaac Howell died soon after they reached there. Isaac Howell consented for Mrs. Stocks to bring the two boys back to Georgia, and she reared and educated them at Mercer University when it was located at Penfield, Greene County, Georgia. However, their education was not complete when the War Between the States began in 1861. Both boys, "Thad and Lee," enlisted in the Confederate army, and both were killed at Gattysburg. The Rices have a good portrait of Leonidas Howell and some of the schoolbooks he studied while attending Mercer."

As William, the other brother, left Georgia, we have lost sight of his family, except that he had a daughter, said to be a very handsome woman.

"Here, T. B. Rice believes he can throw some light on William Howell.

T. B. Rice Speaking: 'When I was a small boy, living on my father's farm, some five miles from Prattville, Alabama, I used to visit the home of Cousin William and Cousin "Kat" Howell in Prattville. Cousin William was owner and editor of the Autauga Citizen, the official organ of Autauga County. Before her marriage to Mr. Howell, Cousin "Kat" was Miss Catherine Harber, grand-daughter of Thomas Townsend, who moved from near White Plains, Greene County, Georgia, and settled some two miles from Prattville. This was before Prattville was founded, and was about the year 1819.

"The Howell's had two sons, William and Percy, and two daughters; Jessie, a very beautiful girl, - and I do not recall the name of the other daughter. Percy, the younger son was about my age, and we were quite chummy. He and I exchanged visits often.

"My relationship to "Cousin Kat" came about in this way: My grandfather, Rev. Thornton Rice, was left a widower in 1831; in 1832, he married, Catherine, daughter of Thomas Townsend, and my father William Thornton Rice, was born in 1833. One of his mother's sisters married a Mr. Harber, and they were the parents of Mrs. Howell, therefore, she was my father's first-cousin.

"William Howell got on the wrong side of politics back in the days when Alabama was mis-ruled by the Republicans - "Radicals", therefore when William T. (Bill) Rice was a party to the ousting of the "Radicals" in 1879-80, his kinsman, William Howell lost his grip on Autauga County patronage, and the Autauga Citizen passed into oblivion."

"I left Autauga county in the spring of 1882, and have not seen any of the Howells since. While in Washington, D. C., some thirty years ago, I learned that both William and Percy Howell had positions in the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, but I did not contact them."